

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-03 EB-07 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00
FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 XMB-02
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST PRIORITY

CONFIDENTIAL STATE 146701

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CPRS, EFIN, RO

SUBJECT: ROMANIAN MFN HEARINGS: GSP AND DECREE 223 CASES

1. ALTHOUGH WE HAVE RECEIVED NO INDICATION TO DATE THAT SUBJECT OF COMPENSATION FOR CONFISCATED PROPERTIES OF US CITIZENS IN ROMANIA IS LIKELY TO BE RAISED AT EITHER THE JUNE 27 SENATE OR JULY 18 HOUSE HEARINGS, DEPARTMENT BELIEVES THAT THIS MIGHT BE A GOOD TIME TO REMIND GOR OF ITS FAILURE TO HAVE RESOLVED ANY OF THESE CASES; IN STARK CONTRAST TO ITS ASSURANCES TO SETTLE SUCH PROBLEMS. WHILE GSP WILL NOT, OF COURSE, BE CENTRAL TO CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY DURING THE HEARINGS, WE ARE AWARE OF AT LEAST ONE SENATOR (RIBICOFF) WHO IS INTERESTED IN EXPLORING HOW GSP MIGHT BE USED TO SUPPLEMENT THE MFN LINK WITH EMIGRATION. SUCH AN ATTEMPTED LINKAGE WOULD BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE; IN OUR VIEW, AND WE HAVE SO ADVISED RIBICOFF'S OFFICE. NEVER-
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THELESS, IT IS NOT AT ALL UNLIKELY THAT THERE WILL BE QUESTIONS AS TO WHY WE GRANTED ROMANIA GSP IN 1976 AND WHETHER ROMANIA STILL QUALIFIES UNDER SECTION 502(B) OF THE TRADE ACT. IN SUCH A CASE, IT WOULD BE ENCUMBENT ON DEPARTMENT TO STATE FRANKLY THAT, WHILE WE HAD BEEN ASSURED THAT GOR WOULD PROVIDE "PROMPT AND ADEQUATE COMPENSATION" FOR CONFISCATED PROPERTY OF US CITIZENS IN

ACCORDANCE WITH OUR GSP LEGISLATION, ROMANIA GOVERNMENT HAS NOT YET LIVED UP TO ITS EARLIER ASSURANCES.

2. WE ARE AWARE THAT EMBASSY HAS BEEN PRESSING FINANCE MINISTRY ON THIS ISSUE AND THAT AMBASSADOR HAS SOUGHT TO PIN DOWN PATAN ON PRECISELY WHAT IS HOLDING UP SETTLEMENT OF OUTSTANDING CASES. IT MIGHT BE USEFUL TO REMIND ROMANIANS THAT GSP MAY COME UP DURING SENATE AND HOUSE HEARINGS AND THAT WE WOULD HOPE TO BE IN POSITION TO REPORT THAT GOR IS LIVING UP TO THE COMMITMENTS IT MADE WHEN GSP WAS GRANTED. ADDITIONALLY, WE WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING ASAP A BRIEF UP-DATE OF EMBASSY'S LATEST EFFORTS WITH GOR IN THIS AREA. CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 23-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition History: n/a
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